services to/from Hyderabad after it has been declared as international airport.

Introduction of State Airports for International Air Services

554. SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of International Air Services were introduced from State Airports recently;

(b) if so, what is the action plan chalked out therefor; and

(c) the air routes selected for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) International air services are presently available from the following airports, which are not classified as international airports;

(i) Calicut (Kerala) to points in gulf (ii) Trichinapalli (Tamil Nadu) to Sharjah (iii) Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) to Sharjah (iv) Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) to Sharjah (v) Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) to Kathmandu (vi) Patna (Bihar) to Kathmandu.

Safety of Air Fields at Jammu and Srinagar

555. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether no steps have been taken to ensure the safety of air fields at Jammu and Srinagar as alleged by the Indian Commercial Pilots Association;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the reasons for declaring Jammu and Kashmir as no fly zone by the Indian Airlines Pilots Union w.e.f. 26th January, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The navigation/landings aids available at Jammu and Srinagar, including sterilisation of approach funnel, are sufficient for safe operation of flights.

(c) The Indian Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA) has issued a directive to its members not to operate to Jammu and Srinagar w.e.f. 26.1.2001, unless they are provided with safe operating environment and the airfields meet the basic criteria for Jet operations. Consequently, Indian Airlines scheduled flight to Jammu and Srinagar airports are being operated by the Executive Pilots of the Airline.

Permission to Foreign Airlines to launch Passenger Aircrafts in Domestic Flights

†556. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to allow foreign airlines companies to launch their services of passenger aircrafts in the domestic flights of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by Government to make the present air services more effective and convenient?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Airlines are free to operate on any route in their commercial judgement subject of course to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines which provide for certain minimum operations in specified category of routes. Under the existing competitive environment, passengers have wider choice. It is upto the concerned airlines to ensure measures for providing effective schedule and passenger convenience.

Expansion of Air Services

557. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.